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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/532,056

11/15/2005

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5326-11

4090

23117 7590 03/16/2010
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EXAMINER

RADA, ALEX P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/16/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/532,056	Applicant(s) ARNAU MANRESA ET AL.	
	Examiner ALEX P. RADA	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 36-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to the amendment filed 27 November 2009 wherein applicant cancels claims 1-12, adds new claims 13-40 and claims 13-40 are pending in this application.

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the flow chart of method claims 36-40 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 19-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 recites in the preamble a toy vehicle system and within the body of the claim recites the remote controller of claim 13. It's not clear if applicant is including all of the limitation of claim 13 or further limiting claim 13.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wolf et al. (US 6,457,681).

Regarding claim 13, Wolf discloses a remote controller for controlling an electric toy comprising: at least one user actuable element that generates an input signal (figures 1-2, item 16; wherein the user controls is shown to generate different input signals); a processor that receives the input signal from the at least one user actuable element and that generates a digital vehicle control

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signal having a digital waveform that includes (1) an address portion identifying a specific toy vehicle and (2) a vehicle operation control portion that contains a command to instruct a toy vehicle to take a particular action (figures 1-3, col. 5, lines 27-47 and col. 6, line 12 – col. 7, line 11); and a transmitter that couples the digital vehicle control signal to the electrically conductive traces of a track (figures 1-3, col. 5, lines 27-47; col. 6, line 12 – col. 7, line 11 and col. 41, line 51 - col. 42, line 35).

Regarding claim 14, Wolf discloses wherein the at least one user actuable element comprises a vehicle speed control element that produces a speed input signal (figure 2; wherein the user inputs the speed of desired on the control element).

Regarding claim 15, Wolf discloses wherein the vehicle speed control element comprises an optical reader (col. 22, lines 10-33).

Regarding claim 16, Wolf discloses wherein the at least one user actuable element comprises a light switch that produces a light control input signal (figure 2 and col. 37, lines 19-26).

Regarding claim 17, Wolf discloses wherein the at least one user actuable element comprises a steering input device that produces a steering input signal (figure 2).

Regarding claim 18, Wolf discloses a vehicle selection switch that allows a user to select which of multiple toy vehicles the remote controller will control and that outputs a vehicle selection signal, wherein the processor receives the vehicle selection signal, and wherein the processor generates digital vehicle control signals that include different values in the address portion depending on the vehicle selection signal received from the vehicle selection switch (col. 6, line 35 – col. 7, line 11).

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose nor teach according to claims 19 and 36, a toy vehicle system having a vehicle controller that compares an authentication code stored in the address portion of the digital vehicle control signals to a predetermined value and wherein the vehicle controller acts on the commands contained in the vehicle operation control portion of a digital vehicle control signal when the authentication code stored in the address portion of the digital vehicle control signal matches the predetermined value. The closest prior art to Wolf discloses a remote controller that generates digital vehicle control signals that identifies a specific toy vehicle and a vehicle operation control portion that contains a command to instruct a toy vehicle to take a particular action and a transmitter that couples the digital vehicle control signal to the electrically conductive traces of a track. Wolf is silent in regards to a vehicle controller that compares an authentication code stored in the address portion of the digital vehicle control signals to a predetermined value and wherein the vehicle controller acts on the commands contained in the vehicle operation control portion of a digital vehicle control signal when the authentication code stored in the address portion of the digital vehicle control signal matches the predetermined value.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEX P. RADA whose telephone number is (571)272-4452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 09:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. P. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Peter D. Vo/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714